Hartford News 3, 2020 May 28 - June 3, 2020 Compared to the compared to the



Phase I of Coronavirus Recovery Underway, Phase II Scheduled to Start June 20

Hartford began its recovery from the Coronavirus shutdown last Wednesday, May 20, with "non-essential" retail shops and offices re-opening and restaurants adding outdoor dining to their take-out and delivery services. But last week's partial lifting of restrictions was not the wave of a magic wand that suddenly turned things back to normal.

"We're cautiously optimistic at what we saw during the first week of re-instating some type of normalcy in Hartford," said Julio Concepción, Executive Director, Hartford Chamber of Commerce. "There were a couple hiccups, but that's to be expected as you start to slowly re-open businesses after months in quarantine. But for the most part, I believe both the businesses and consumers followed proper protocols. We're hoping that continues as more and more restaurants begin to re-open and as we head to Phase Two of the Governor's plan."

Phase Two of Governor Ned Lamont's four-phase plan to fully re-open Connecticut has tentatively been set for Saturday, June 20. In addition to "essential businesses" that have remained open through the Coronavirus crisis and those that were allowed to re-open May 20, Phase Two will allow libraries, gyms, hotels and motels, movie theaters, bowling alleys, pools, museums, zoos and aquarians to re-open. As with all businesses currently open, strict social distancing and sanitary regulations must be followed.

In addition, restaurants will be allowed to offer indoor dining in Phase Two, in addition to the outdoor dining allowed as of last week. Restaurant and hotel bars will remain closed, however.

Barber shops and beauty salons are a spe-

cial case because of the close contact between customers and employees. These businesses were originally slated to re-open May 20, but that has sinced been pushed back until this Monday, June 1. Nail salons and tattoo parlors are expected to be allowed to re-open in Phase Three of the governor's plan.

In Phase Two, gatherings of up to 50 people will be allowed. Current restrictions limit gathering to five people or less. Outdoor concerts and shows will be allowed, but limited to 50 people or less. Indoor events will still be banned in Phase Two.

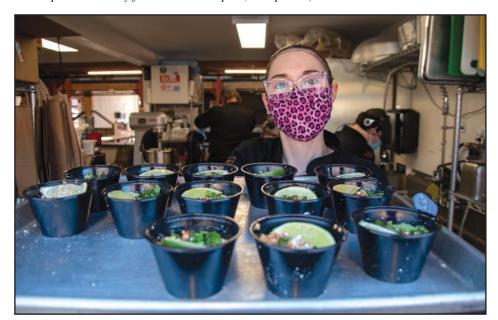
Lamont and other state officials have stressed that the start of of Phase Two is tentative and may be pushed further back. In order for it to start on schedule, the state must continue to show signs of slowing the spread of the Coronavirus. These signs include: the continued reduction in the transmission of the virus; a reduction in the number of hospital beds being used for the those with Coronavirus; implementation of testing and tracing, especially of those who are seen as most vulnerable to contracting the virus, including workers in essential industries and the elderly; and the continued adherance by state residents and businesses to regulations put in place to stop the spread of the virus.

Despite the progress, Hartford will still be dominated by the Coronavirus for many more weeks, if not months. Almost all of the city's main summer events have already been cancelled, including the Puerto Rican Parade, which was scheduled for this Sunday. The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz in Bushnell Park has also been cancelled, although a virtual concert will be held on Saturday, July 18 (see Mike McGarry's column, page 2).



Parkville Market Opens!

Six food vendors are now open at the brand new Parkville Market at 1400 Park Street, Hartford. The market's current vendors are Mofongo, Gula Grill, Bombay Express, Disco Forno, The Portly Pig and Chompers. Above is Vincent Placeres from Mofongo with samples of his restaurant's Puerto Rican cuisine; below is Johanna Bond from the Portly Pig. The Parkville Market will be open for take-out and outdoor dining from Tuesday-Saturday from 12 noon-8pm and Sunday from 12 noon - 6 pm. (Hart photos)



From First Responder to Last Responder The life of a funeral director in the time of COVID-19

BY ANNE GOSHDIGIAN

9/11:

Shortly after the World Trade Center attack on September 11th, 2001, Leonard Holtz—a funeral director by profession-headed to New York City from Connecticut as a volunteer to join the search of the wreckage for victims. As Executive Funeral Director for Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc., Holtz knew that many of those who died at that site were likely of the Jewish faith. The high holidays were also approaching. Like his father before him, he also officiates at funerals as one need not be clergy, but needs to know the liturgical prayers sung and chanted in Hebrew, and the thoughtfulness and spirituality to deliver a eulogy connecting to the life of the deceased and survivors. "All this prepared me to answer the call to respond to the tragedy of 9/11 in 2001, which forever changed me and so many", said Holtz. "I brought all my protective gear to New York, and searched for remains but then after meeting the Commander, I was given the opportunity to perform a service right at the base of the destruction at ground zero. I carried the picture of one missing person, a 26 year-old who died in the collapse while working on the 102nd floor of the first tower. While on his cell phone

with his father, and realizing the building was beginning to collapse, his father's last words to him were 'Hug someone. Don't die alone.' I searched for him, but spiritually he found me. His story and my later meeting with his father (Months later an arm bone was positively identified, and he presented the father with the American flag at a military ceremony he was officiating for the discovered remains of 40 soldiers) changed my life. I was never the same after. I was mentally affected for a while after 9/11; my mind was like a computer that gets locked up. I could not move forward in my thoughts. My wife saw my problem. Since I had slept with a beagle for a week during my 9/11 response, I went to a pet store in Elmwood, and went to the counter and asked if they had any beagles. They said yes, I asked if I could by one. They brought one out, I gave them a credit card and walked out with a beagle pup I named Kaleb. This little dog got my mind back to functioning. To this day, when I see a digital or analog display of time being 9:11, my brain stops and recites one short prayer, every time, the prayer recited in my religion that is recited when a death occurs and is recited as the single most defining statement in my religion."

Continued on page 7

Hartford...Once Upon a Time

Much of Hartford unexpectedly turned into "waterfront property" during the great flood of 1936. This photo shows a crowd of people watching rescue workers paddle and row down Charter Oak Avenue. At left is Kinsella School (now known as Ramon Betances School). At far right is the Polish National Home. (Photo courtesy of the Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library)

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Mothers United Remembers Victims of Violence in Hartford

For over a decade, Hartford Mothers United Against Violence (MUAV) has held a march through the streets of Hartford to remember all those who have been murdered in the city in recent years and to renew their call for more efforts to be made by the government and the communityto reduce the violence. In years past, marchers carried crosses bearing the names of those who had been killed in Hartford. This year was different. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, the march could not be held. Instead, a caravan of cars drove through the city to honor those who have been killed and demand an end to the violence. (Photo supplied by Mothers Against Violence)

LESSONS FROM THE PAST:

Social Distancing Saves Lives and Helps Economic Recovery

BY TOM SWARR

We have been told we must make a brutal choice between public or economic health. One side claims COVID-19 is just another flu and the lockdown cure is worse than the disease. The other side claims the incompetent response and lack of leadership is costing thousands of lives. Politicians on both sides appear more interested in developing talking points

for the looming presidential election than making difficult choices mitigate to BOTH health and economic harms of the pandemic.

There is little doubt amongst scientists and the medical professionals that COVID-19 not just another flu. It has proven to spread extremely easily, and the fatality rate is higher. Uncertainty about the fatality



An advertisement run during the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919 urges citizens to demonstrate their "civic patriotism" by wearing a mask.

infected, increases the need for caution. Initial estimates wave was the deadliest, attributed to a mutation of the were that 25 to 50% of the population would be infected. Taking the lower estimates would suggest oneeighth of one percent of the population would die from the virus. That does not sound too bad until you do the math and realize that means more than 4,600 deaths in CT and more than 400,000 deaths nationwide. It is

worth noting that we have already suffered more than 3,600 deaths in CT over the past few months. Hard to argue we have overreacted!

There is also no argument that pandemics impose serious economic harm. One study of 15 pandemics stretching back to the 14th century showed effects on interest rates and real wages that lasted for decades. But

> do social distancing interventions make things worse?

Researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the MIT Sloan School of Management studied the 1918 pandemic to answer that question. The 1918 pandemic ran from January, 1918 to December, 1920 with three different peaks occurring in the spring of 1918, fall of 1918, and a final

rate, perhaps somewhere between 0.5 and 2% of those winter peak that extended into spring of 1919. The fall virus. The Coronavirus has been mutating and will con-

> Their study showed deep drops in manufacturing employment, bank assets, and auto sales that had not

> > Continued on page 6

THE HARTFORD NEWS

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Jazz Fest Goes Virtual

Probably all of us expected it, but it was still sad to see it made official: there will be no Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz in Bushnell Park this summer. Instead, there will be a "virtual concert" on Saturday, July 18. Here's the official press release:

Today (May 25, 2020) the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz (GHFJ) Board of Directors announced the postponement of the 2020 three-day outdoor jazz festival due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19. The Board is instead planning a virtual concert to be streamed on July 18, 2020. The full outdoor festival will resume in Bushnell Park in 2021 continuing its "Jazz Meets Blues" theme to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz.

GHFJ's "Virtual Jazz Fest" will be a prelude of what will be in store when the outdoor festival returns in 2021. This exciting, first-time virtual concert will air on Saturday, July 18, 2020, to coincide with the traditional dates of the Jazz Fest weekend. The virtual concert will air on GHFJ's website and be shared across all of their social media platforms, including YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

"The Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz is a staple of the summer season in Hartford. For nearly 30 years, they have brought incredibly talented musicians to our community and celebrated local artists. While it's disappointing, we can't celebrate together this year, we are excited about the Virtual Jazz Fest," said Cathy Malloy, CEO of the Greater Hartford Arts Council, which organizes the Summer in the City program that helps make the festival possible. "We hope people will enjoy the virtual event

Continued on page 3

My Upinion

"Go Buy Some Earplugs": Thug **Intertown Employee Underscores Need for Tenant Rights Legislation**

BY DAVID SAMUELS

Last week I talked to House Majority Leader Matt Ritter, about the urgent need in 2021 for us to resurrect our tenant rights legislation that was derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tenant Rights Victory in New York: New Laws Are A Model **for Connecticut:** https://hendu39. wordpress.com/2020/01/01/ten ant-rights-victory-in-new-yorknew-laws-are-a-model-for-connecticut/.

Raised H.B. No. 5126, Session Year 2020: An Act Concerning **Inspections Of Rental Property** Prior To Occupancy Or Termination, Late Rental Payments And Designation Of A Rental Housing Ombudsman. https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBill Type=Bill&which_year=2020&bi ll num=5126&fbclid=IwAR2I75 pAvGVaiJ5s2uj0Bhm_qbLarR3r5 6G6uL72SYWoaeOXQeqDPrhoi

The ombudsman would use court dockets to actively target persistent offender retaliatory landlords. I informed Rep. Ritter about a dispute I'm having with Intertown Realty. For the past two weeks, the fire alarm system

located directly on the back wall of my apartment has been going off, emitting high pitched beeps. What I thought was just the system accidently tripping now appears to be something else. Last week an Intertown maintenance worker who supposedly came to fix the system berated me, telling me that if I don't like it I should buy earplugs. I helped to organize an Intertown tenants union in 2004. We won a \$200,000 judgement in 2005 against Intertown for what Attorney General Richard Blumenthal found was an illegal "heating surcharge". I asked for the alarm system to be moved and got no response. I did talk to Intertown about moving to another apartment, but I realized that would not be a wise move financially given my lack of leverage. So now it appears I'm in a situation where I'm being forced out of my apartment. I get repeated assurances that the problem is fixed and it re-occurs.

The thug employee will certainly want to give a rebuttal with photos of my less than tidy apartment. What he won't do is show

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Coronavirus Testing Sites in Hartford

Testing will be one of the keys to Hartford's recovery from the current Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) pandemic. While anyone exhibiting symptoms of the virus (dry cough, fever) should be tested, it is recommended that all city residents who regularly come into close proximity with large numbers of people also be tested. This would include those living in large and medium size apartment buildings and those who use mass transit.

To facilitate the testing of as many city residents as possible, there are now nine testing sites in Hartford. No insurance is required, nor is a doctor's order. In addition, the City of Hartford is providing free transportation to and from confirmed coronavirus testing appointments through Hartford 311. Residents can call 860-757-9311 Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM to schedule a ride.

Hartford COVID-19 Testing Sites

- Hartford Hospital, 560
 Hudson St. Daily, 8 a.m.
 to 4 p.m.: Drive-thru and walk-up testing is available. If you have a primary care physician, they will refer you. If you don't have a physician or have other questions, call Hartford HealthCare's clinical call center at 860-972-8100 or toll-free at 833-621-0600.
- St. Francis Hospital, 1000
 Asylum Ave. Monday Saturday, beginning at 9
 a.m. Drive-thru and walk up testing is available. No
 appointment is necessary.
 Testing for children is
 available. For information,
 call 860-714-4000, Ext. 1.
- CVS Pharmacy, 479 Blue Hills Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at cvs.com/minuteclinic/ covid-19-testing.
- CVS Pharmacy,150
 Washington St.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing.

- CVS Pharmacy,690
 Wethersfield Ave.: Drive-thru only. Register online at www.cvs.com/minute-clinic/covid-19-testing.
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St. Daily, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-in only. Make an appointment by calling 860-550-7500.
- InterCommunity Inc., 16
 Coventry St. Testing
 Monday-Friday, 1 p.m. to
 3 p.m. Walk-up and drive-thru available. No appointment required. For information, call 860-569-5900.
- Wheeler Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 43-49 Woodland St. Testing begins May 25. For information, call 860-793-3500.
- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave. Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointment required. Current CHS patients only. To schedule an appointment, call 860-249-9625.

Virtual Jazz Fest July 18

Continued from page 2

as we continue to celebrate art, music and culture in the Capital City."

The GHFJ Virtual Jazz Fest will feature two hours of traditional, smooth, Latin, straight-ahead, and a touch of blues performances. Like the out-door festival, the virtual concert will feature performances from both local and national artists and more!

The community is invited to creatively incorporate their favorite elements of the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz experience, including picnic ambiance, favorite foods and more. Please follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines while doing so. A message from Mayor Luke Bronin...

"We will miss the energy and vitality that the Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz brings to Hartford, and it's hard to imagine a summer without jazz in Bushnell Park, but we are looking forward to the creative, Virtual Jazz Fest we will get to enjoy this year. The GHFJ Board of Directors is making the right decision to prioritize public health and safety, and I am grateful to them for their careful consideration."

The outdoor Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz will resume July 16-18, 2021 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the festival. To learn more about the festival and how to support it, visit www.hartford-jazz.org or follow them on Facebook at Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz.



The Tradition Continues Despite the Obstacles

Boy Scout Troop 105 has held a wreath-laying service at the Hartford Vietnam War Memorial for over 30 years. This year, due to the Coronavirus, the troop was unable to perform the service. But Scoutmaster Chad Schrock and his children, Calen and Adeline, kept the tradition going by putting the wreath up on Memorial Day, May 25.Shcrock also placed a wreath at the Soldiers Field Monument in Northwoods Cemetery on the Hartford-Windsor line on Saturday morning. Over 5,000 Hartford veterans are buried at Soldiers Field. Up until this year, Troop 105 had spent Saturday morning of Memorial Day Weekend placing an American flag beside each grave. This year the health crisis precluded them from doing so. Both wreaths were donated to Troop 105 by Cedar Hill Cemetery. (Hart photo)

Volunteers: Coming Soon to a Park Near You!

BY DONNA SWARR

If you have a yard to maintain, in many cases due to the Coronavirus and having to spend more time at home, it's probably looking pretty good. With a third spring of epic rainfall, mowing the grass is, once again, a real challenge. But also due to the pandemic, this has resulted in no demand for the parks' athletic fields to be groomed. Trimming around buildings, fences, and benches takes a lot of time. Hartford's park mainte-

nance staff and forestry workers have been busily pruning back branches. Inside the parks, it's almost litter free! But our Parks Friends Groups have more work they want to get done. Colt Park is undergoing some serious construction, but our gardens need weeding and refreshing. The

trees need to be mulched and suckers need to be removed. Litter still blows in from the city streets and needs to be removed, and that's a task our city staff needs some help with.

The governor has said that groups of up to 50 may assemble as of June 20th. Can we start to have volunteers come back into our parks to help out? Let's see; if we have to wait, we have to wait. Yes, we will still need to make the best choices in controlling the spread of the virus. Should everyone volunteer? No. If you are at risk, please wait until next year. We'll understand and respect you more for making the best decision for you.

Will everyone who participates be asked to wear a mask? Yes. Will there be gloves to protect you? It would be best for you to bring your own. Will we be socially distant, six feet apart? You betcha. Will we share tools?—no, we will not. The Friends of Colt Park and any other organization volunteering in the parks must submit a request to DPW for approval. Some parks have licensing agreements, but under COVID-

19, they, too will be asking when it is safe. Knox Inc. is following the situation very closely and is determined to keep their staff and the public safe. This year there might be a little more scrutiny in reviewing those volunteer requests due to the Coronavirus precautions. Be prepared to lis-

ten to those reminders during the volunteer greeting from the organizer. If you don't want to adhere to the organizer's requirements, please stay home. The people that put together these events are volunteers themselves. I ask you to respect them by following those requirements. W

hen will these volunteer events start? I don't know when DPW will approve them, but it most certainly will not be before June 20th. Stay tuned to your park's web page, Facebook pages and the *Hartford News* for announcements about volunteering events. We need your help!





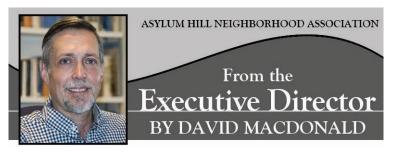
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News Views



HARTFORD



The Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's mission is to empower and connect residents and stakeholders to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood. We continue to navigate the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. Amidst all this uncertainty, however, our primary concern is the health of our residents. This means that our June 1st general meeting will be done via video/teleconference. If you receive our newsletter via email then you will receive an email detailing how you can join our virtual general meeting.

The agenda will include two important items, 1) a presentation and vote about the proposed renovation of the historic property at 15 Marshall Street into a 3-family house and 2) a presentation and vote regarding a zoning variance request from Youth Challenge regarding 291 Collins Street. If someone needs to receive information about how to join our meeting on June 1st at 6:15pm, please email me at exdir@asy-lumhill.org to join our email list.

The Stay-at-Home order and subsequent loss of employment has hit our neighborhood and city residents very hard. There is great need in our community. Our food pantries and churches have been very active providing food to those in need and we thank them for their assistance. There is a Mini-Pantry at 202 Laurel Street that is being stocked by our former Board member Carol Padberg and other volunteers, and she reports that the need is so great it is difficult to keep this mini-pantry fully stocked. We are putting out the call for anyone who can help to help stock this mini-Pantry for our neighbors. You can simply drive up to the pantry and place your donations of canned goods for those in need. Thank you in advance for your help.

Hartford is home to many committed community leaders, passionate non-profits, and generous business partners. There are many people in Hartford who don't have access to the federal relief programs, so the people of Hartford have stepped up to help those in need. We are certain that when our residents come together to address challenges, even a pandemic, we all benefit. We know we will work together to meet this crisis with compassion, confidence and creativity. Above all, stay safe and help care for others whenever and wherever you can.

Asylum Hill's Newest Homeowner

It's hard to know when you're going to find a perfect match in the real estate business, but NINA keeps trying, and Asylum Hill is all the better for it. So when they acquired the two properties on Sigourney St that were formerly owned by Saint Francis, the single family historic home originally built by a member of the Plimpton family seemed to be the one easiest to work with. They had done nearly twenty very much like it over the years. The six-unit brick apartment building next door with the flat roof would likely be more of a chal-

They were making progress on 115 Sigourney and planning ahead for 117 when they got a very interested party in the person of Karen Taylor.

Karen had been looking for a three-family home for a while when she went to a Leadership Greater Hartford Quest meeting at the home of Rico Reyes on Ashley St. That's when she discovered NINA. Then she heard about the Sigourney St properties and she connected with David Corrigan, NINA's Program Manager. The great thing about selling homes is that you only need one buyer, and for 117 Sigourney St. Karen was the one. She began the paperwork that leads to homeownership while NINA's effort quickly shifted to the brick six- unit being converted into



an historic exterior, up to date interior, three family home. She was so please with her home-to-be, that she began attending AHNA meetings back in January, months before she would be able to move in.

Even the recent pandemic has not dampened her determination or enthusiasm for being Asylum Hill's newest homeowner. Behind that mask is a big warm smile of satisfaction. So now that she's Asylum Hill's newest homeowner, she's also Asylum Hill's newest landlady-to-

be. If anyone's looking for a beautiful 3 bedroom brand new apartment in an historic, but modernized apartment building, you need to talk to Karen.

115 Sigourney next door is also now completed, and awaiting just the right person or people to discover the charm of Asylum Hill Living. If you think you might be the perfect person to become Karen's neighbor, contact David Corrigan at david@ninahartford.org.

AH THEN & NOW

Public Transit



In keeping with our effort to feature examples of remarkable progress over the last century we have a photo from the West Hartford Historical Society Collection of what was called an "Omnibus". The caption as well as the clothing would place the photo from the 1870's and it very likely traveled along Farmington Avenue, possibly from Main St to Main St.





Compare it to the CTfastrak buses that run to New Britain in 30 minutes or even the local buses like the 60 that goes from Main St Hartford to Main St West Hartford in 18 minutes. When you include the number of routes that cover the entire State, the paved roads that they travel on, and throw in the air conditioning and free Wi-Fi, it seems pretty obvious that no one would want to go back.

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EXPLORING ASYLUM HILL

Properties Improving

Part of the emphasis on working from home and on the Internet means that there's more time and focus on research. One such area is the City of Hartford Property Assessment Data. It's a great way to find out who your neighbors are, at least in terms of owners.

Several properties that have been empty for a long time, have recently been acquired by new owners, and it seems that maybe NINA and Habitat are getting some help in revitalizing Asylum Hill.

One such property is at 43 Niles St. It has been a troubled property for many years, and with the recently renovated West Middle School right across the street, it stands out all the more as an example of something needing fixing.



So back in March, it got a new owner in the person of Dr. Carrie Baker and her brother Gerald Kerr. Carrie is the third in her family to invest in the historic properties on Niles St. Her mother, Benita Toussaint has been living next door at 45 Niles for more than 20 years. On the other side, both 47 Niles and 370 Laurel St on the corner are owned by her sister Sallie Land.

All three of those properties have been improved



and maintained once in the hands of Benita and her daughter, so we have only good things to expect for 43 Niles. As Carrie says, "It is a privilege to give back to the community in a positive way". We need more neighbors who feel that way.

Another long neglected historic home is at 15 Marshall St. a new owner has recently purchased it and is intent on fixing it up and putting it back into use as residential housing. He appeared before the Historic Housing Commission earlier in May requesting permission to replace the very damaged cedar shingles currently there with some form of vinyl siding, and the Commission approved it conditional upon AHNA approving it. Additional good news regarding this property is that the owner was represented at the Historic Housing Commission by Valerio Giadone, an architect and former Asylum Hill resident who has done many historic restorations as well as new construction for NINA and others in the neighborhood.

This request will be on the June 1st AHNA meeting agenda and will be discussed at that time.



The Close of the 2020 Legislative Session

It was a somber and surreal final day of the 2020 legislative session on May 5. With maybe a dozen people in the House Chamber, that usually would be packed with people, we declared "Sine Die" to close the session.

It was the final regular session day for some incredible leaders: Speaker Joe Aresimowicz, Rep. Themis Klarides and Sen. Len Fasano. All are retiring from the legislature.

There is still business before us and we will be back this summer looking at the state's financial picture and making sure your voting rights are protected. We are working hard to ensure there is a process in place for a special session that is safe and allows us to take care of the people's business.

Increasing COVID Testing Capacity in Hartford

I appreciated CVS working with us to expand COVID testing in Connecticut, particularly our urban centers. Expanding our testing capacity is key to safely reopening Connecticut. CVS opened 12 new COVID-19 testing sites in Connecticut including three in Hartford.

The Hartford locations are:

- CVS Pharmacy, 479 Blue Hills Avenue
- CVS Pharmacy, 150 Washington Street
- CVS Pharmacy, 690 Wethersfield Ave.

You can also find testing available at other locations in Hartford:

- Hartford Hospital, 560 Hudson St.
- St. Francis Hospital, 1000 Asylum Ave.
- Charter Oak Health Center, 21 Grand St.
- InterCommunity Inc., 16 Coventry St
- Wheeler Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 43-49 Woodland St.
- Community Health Services, 500 Albany Ave.

For the most up to date info on coronavirus visit the state's COVID-19 hub at ct.gov/coronavirus.

Please contact me at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, or by phone at (860) 240-8489, if you have any questions or concerns.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Give & Take Pantry



For the last three years or so, the little Give & Take Pantry in front of 202 Laurel St. has been silently but steadily "volunteering" to help the residents of the neighborhood. It has provided its service free of charge all day and night every day of the year. It's been the miniest of minimarts, but with the best prices, and the friendliest of service, and it's hard to say how many have benefited from its presence.

Of course its most obvious service is to provide food to those in need, but it goes beyond that, in that it provides a very simple, convenient opportunity for those so inclined, to voluntarily give. In addition, it reminds everyone who sees it, of the need, the opportunity and the means to give to others in need.

It's been the miniest of minimarts, but with the best prices, and the friendliest of service.

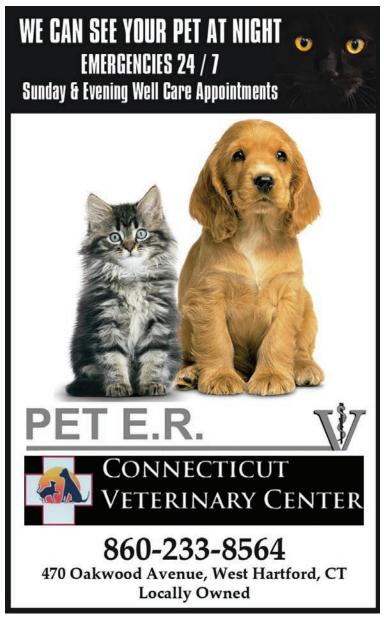
What it doesn't do however is thank those who drop off anything. It keeps no record, no tally of those who have donated nor those who have received. So any gratitude must go unrecognized and unacknowledged; from life to life.

It was built long before anyone imagined this pandemic in which

we live, but it's safe to assume that its value to the community has increased in the last few months. So if you're going that way, and you think of it, or even if not; stop by. If you need something, help yourself; if you have anything extra, drop it off. If you're experiencing both, even better.

It's waiting for you. The photos here were all taken in a 24-hour period.





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Hands On Hartford Celebrates Memorial Day with Community Lunch

Despite the drizzle and despite the virus, Hands On Hartford held its annual Memorial Day Community Meal for those in need on Monday, May 25. Those attending the event received a bag of toiletries along with a full lunch, which was supplied by The Portly Pig (which recently opened at the new Parkville Market) and others. Volunteers and Hands on Hartford employees staffed the event, including "Chef Kim" (above) and Donessia Harris and Bianca Almanzar (below). (Hart photos)



Lessons from the Past

Continued from page 2

fully recovered over the next five years. Areas with more deaths were more depressed. A variety of interventions similar to today's efforts were employed; including school, theater, and church closures, public gathering and funeral bans, quarantine of suspected cases, and restricted business hours. But early and forceful intervention did not worsen the economic downturn. The study showed intervening 10 days earlier led to a 5% increase in manufacturing jobs in the period after the pandemic. Cities that acted earlier and maintained the measures longer showed improved recovery of manufacturing jobs and bank assets in the post period. And those same early and forceful measures reduced

Plans for a safe reopening of the economy are relying on adequate testing to identify new infections, tracing to identify and quarantine those possibly infected, antibody

testing, and continued use of social distancing. There are still many unknowns about the virus and whether we will continue to follow common sense distancing precautions. I can only offer the following advice as this social experiment unfolds. Listen to public health officials for guidance on health choices. Ignore everything politicians say unless they are answering one of the following questions:

- What are you doing to relieve the economic pains of those most affected by the pandemic?
- What investments are you making to improve the ability of our health care system to contain the current virus and to respond to future pandemics?
- What are you doing to improve health care in poor communities of color that are suffering a disproportionate number of infections and deaths?

Stay safe.

Help Line for Domestic Violence Victims

From the Office of State Representative Minnie Gonzalez

With the implementation of social distancing and shelter-in-place orders due to the current pandemic, there is an increased risk of domestic violence. To connect those who may be experiencing domestic violence with services, resources, and assistance the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) created CT Safe Connect.

Safe Connect is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a week via:

- Call or text: 888-774-2900
- Email: safeconnect@ctcadv.org

 Web chat : (https://app.purechat. com/w/CTSafeConnect)

com/w/CTsafeConnect)
This network has helped callers with concerns relating to accessing basic needs, rent/mortgage payments, food insecurity, and emotional/mental well-being. CCADV and its members have also assisted victims in filing temporary restraining orders through the State Judicial Branch's online system. Safe Connect and CCADV's partners helped filed 46 % of all TRO applications filed statewide in April.

#Counthartford Social Media Challenge To Promote Census With \$1.000 Grand Prize

On Tuesday, May 26, Mayor Luke Bronin announced the #CountHartford social media challenge, a competition for City residents to create sixty second videos that include key census messages. To enter the competition, residents must post a video not longer than 60 seconds to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok that includes the three key messages about the census listed below and email the link(s) to BroninOffice@Hartford.gov. The person whose video gets the most "likes" across platforms by midnight on Sunday, June 14, 2020, will win a \$1,000 gift card to the Hartford store of their choice. The second place winner will get a \$500 gift card and the third place winner will get a \$250 gift card. This contest is open to Hartford residents only, and individuals can only win one of

"Filling out the census is safe, quick, and easy for everyone, and it's crucial that Hartford gets counted," said Mayor Luke Bronin. "We need to make sure everyone knows how important the census is, and the best resource we have to get the word out is the creativity and energy of our residents. You can submit a song, dance, skit, or anything else that includes the basic facts about the census for a chance to earn the grand prize. The census determines whether we get the funding we need and the political representation we deserve, and too often, Hartford gets undercounted and ignored. It's up to us to make sure we get counted, and we hope this competition gets more residents engaged to help spread the word."

Videos must include the three messages below, but residents can use their own words:

- 1. Filling out the census is completely safe and secure, no matter who you are.
- 2. Filling out the census will help our community get the funding we need for things like health-care and education.
- 3. Filling out the census is easy by mail, by phone, or online at My2020Census.gov and you do not need a special code, just your address.

Eligibility: This contest is open to Hartford residents only, and individuals can only win one of the prizes. The City must be able to verify the number of "likes" on each post by viewing each post; screenshots of the number of "likes" will not be accepted.

#Counthartford Reto En Redes Sociales Para Promover El Censo Con Premio De \$1,000

El martes 26 de mayo, el Alcalde Luke Bronin anunció el desafío de redes sociales #CountHartford, una competencia para que los residentes de la Ciudad creen videos de sesenta segundos que incluyan mensajes clave del censo. Para participar en la competencia, los residentes deben publicar un video de no más de 60 segundos en Facebook, Twitter, Instagram o TikTok que incluya los tres mensajes clave sobre el censo que se enumeran a continuación y enviar los enlaces a BroninOffice@Hartford.gov. La persona cuyo video obtenga la mayor cantidad de "me gusta" en las plataformas antes de la medianoche del domingo 14 de junio del 2020, ganará una tarjeta de regalo de \$1,000 para la tienda Hartford de su elección. El ganador del segundo lugar recibirá una tarjeta de regalo de \$500 y el ganador del tercer lugar recibirá una tarjeta de regalo de \$250. Este concurso está abierto solo para residentes de Hartford, y las personas solo pueden ganar uno de los premios.

"Completar el censo es seguro, rápido y fácil para todos, y es crucial que se cuente a Hartford", dijo el Alcalde Luke Bronin. "Necesitamos aseguramos de que todos sepan lo importante que es el censo, y el mejor recurso que tenemos para correr la voz es la creatividad y la energía de nuestros residentes. Puede enviar una canción, baile, parodia o cualquier otra cosa que incluya los datos básicos sobre el censo para tener la oportunidad de ganar el gran premio. El censo determina si obtenemos los fondos que necesitamos y la representación política que merecemos, y con demasiada frecuencia, Hartford es contado e ignorado. Depende de nosotros aseguramos de que se nos cuente, y esperamos que esta competencia haga que más residentes participen para ayudar a correr la voz ".

Los videos deben incluir los tres mensajes a continuación, pero los residentes pueden usar sus propias palabras:

- 1. Completar el censo es seguro, sin importar quién sea
- 2. Completar el censo ayudará a nuestra comunidad a obtener los fondos que necesitamos para cosas como atención médica y educación.
- 3. Completar el censo es fácil por correo, por teléfono o en línea en My2020Census.gov, y no necesita un código especial, solo su dirección.

Elegibilidad: Este concurso está abierto solo para residentes de Hartford, y las personas solo pueden ganar uno de los premios. La Ciudad debe poder verificar el número de "me gusta" en cada publicación al ver cada publicación; no se aceptarán capturas de pantalla del número de "me gusta".

Deadline is May 31 for Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program

The deadline is fast approaching to apply for Capital Workforce Partners Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program. Interested youths ages 14 - 21 must apply by Sunday, May 31.

The program offers a chance to

spend the summer making money, gaining valuable work experience, developing marketable skills. exploring a possible career and making personal connections in the greater Hartford community.

Those applying for the program

must show documentation proving age and residency. Once accepted, youths will be matched with a community-based organization.

To apply or for more information, please go to the website: capitalworkforcepartners.org/SYELP

In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

photos of roach and rat infested apartments Intertown owns in low-income communities of color: I lived in one of those apartments on Evergreen Avenue in 1998. Roaches filled the kitchen cabinets. I had to keep bread and other items wrapped in plastic bags. When I complained to Intertown they would do a perfunctory spray and keep it moving. Ceilings, such as the bathroom ceiling in my apartment, leaked. Neighbors complained to me about rude responses to maintenance requests and outrageous charges. I'm a slob but I don't rob. I'd like to know if the thug white employee is upset about the conditions he sees in Intertown apartments occupied by poor Black and Brown people, or just mine. Current/former Intertown tenants have posted pics of apartment conditions in Yelp, along with scathing reviews. (https://www.yelp.com/biz/intertown-realty-company-hartford).

I've been open about my struggle with depression and anxiety. This employee has attempted to bully me while I struggled in a depressive state.

Something is happening. The attitude of the thug worker was a dead giveaway, a guy who I didn't even know saying I should go buy earplugs. Even if he thinks I'm a slob tenant living in a "shithole" apartment, he shouldn't think that I'm unreasonable for wanting this

problem fixed. No one with Intertown, from owner Jeffrey Reiner to this thug, would accept living with that level of noise. I thought about Intertown's reaction. Intertown said the employee didn't speak for them but they didn't say "and we disciplined him". Intertown said all of the right things but it didn't ring true. Really the alarm system should be moved from my wall. That's the problem, it's as if the system is sitting in the middle of my apartment. When I sent that email last week I got no response.

Tenants need legislation that empowers them. H.B. 5126 is a huge first step.

May 28 - June 3, 2020 The Hartford News

First Responder to Last Responder

Continued from page 1 The job description:

Most people are not aware of what goes on between the time of death and the time of burial or cremation. Holtz lays it out: "Being a funeral director is a way of life choice. We are strengthened by helping families getting through the unique experience of death which most are ill prepared to handle. We are ready to roll and arrive to death calls within typically one hour. Death may be at home, apartment, condos, assisted living, nursing homes, hospitals, a medical examiner's facility, or out of state, requiring airline or highway shipping. We have vans always ready with a stretcher and personal protective equipment. Removing from the place of death can often be a medical and physical challenge, sometimes necessitating a 911 call to extricate with emergency and fire department assistance. Most common is removing from a hospital's large morgue where many bodies are held on rolling tables." As a second-generation Jewish funeral director, he said "I have taught many men

and women in the ritual preparation of the deceased as did my parents. I respond to what are called at-need and pre-need funeral calls. In the traditional Jewish faith, caskets are closed, only ritual clothing is used for men and women, only men prepare men and only women prepare women and by tradition there is no embalming."

Coronavirus changes:

Those are the procedures followed during "normal" times, but with the advent of the current pandemic, Holtz's work has changed dramatically. Nineteen years after 2001, he now finds himself responding to COVID-19 deaths in waves and multiples from the Hartford area, New York, Florida, Virginia, Philadelphia.

"I have been answering death calls for the last 60 days in numbers unimaginable in my career, and over 90% of them are due to COVID-19. Initially believing this was the way I would meet my end, I made my children aware of my life insurance and other assets. As if knowing it was inevitable that I would contract the disease, there was a particularly emotional exchange with my Navy Lt. son. But then, training, experience and personal protection awareness took control of my thoughts of mortality, and I felt I was probably better prepared psychologically and experientially with tragedy than many because of 9/11. I developed my protocols to avoid contracting the virus. Masks, shields, gloves, protective clothing, disinfectants for clothing being worn and hands and surface contacts, body pouches, and a routine of stripping in the garage, and immediately taking showers-many of them, and multiple times a day. I developed a concoction of immune system boosters and protectors." He also developed his own protocols for funerals, which is now only graveside services with 5 to 10 people present, and clear requirements for keeping family in cars when they've likely been exposed to COVID-19 loved ones who have died. Social distancing, masks and gloves for all attendees, immediately lowering the caskets, and placing the concrete cover on the vaults and then complete filling of the grave, before

the service starts. He adds that the time frame for picking up the deceased has increased due to Coronavirus restrictions, and the funeral director must now make an appointment or request by mail, or even wait for hours outside of the facility before being allowed to enter. Holtz recalls conducting two separate dual funerals of husband and wife couples buried side by side after dying days just apart from COVID-19 at Jefferson House in Newington. "The nursing homes have been overwhelmed and underequipped with personal protection, and most don't have any body pouches." In a particularly poignant recollection, he related that "A childhood friend of mine, lost his mother from COVID-19, contracted in a local nursing home. She had been a Holocaust survivor. He also had COVID-19, and hadn't been able to see his mother for a month up to her death. He was not allowed to get out of his car at the cemetery. Just a week before, I was notified that a cemetery grounds crew worker serving in the Boston area had been exposed and two crews had to be quarantined. So now every effort to protect cemetery personnel, funeral personnel, and family from each other is made."

Personal challenges:

"It has been at least 60 days of handling almost daily COVID-19 cases. First and foremost is the fear of giving the virus to a loved one, most of all to my significant other. She is brave and confident in my protection protocols. Like many now, she works from home. Our two dogs are very important to clearing my head. Focusing on self-protection without getting distracted, especially when tired, is not easy. I am not able to be with my family and my daughter is due to deliver in two weeks. I will likely not be able to see a new grandchild for a long time. But aside from being exhausted, I am strong and otherwise healthy. I am doing what I do by choice, I am responding, I am needed, and I will do this until I can't."

Leonard Holtz Executive Funeral Director for Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc., and a member of the Connecticut Funeral Directors.

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The Hartford News 563 Franklin Ave., Hartford, CT Phone: 296-6128

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REAL ESTATE

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Large well maintained 3 bedroom apartments, 1st & 2nd floor, quiet building. Cold flat \$900 monthly. 1 month security 1 month rent. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-882-3650

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1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments on Arnold Street and Deerfield Avenue. Appliances included cold flat. Section 8 welcome. Affordable rents. Call 860-752-9060.

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Rooms for rent in Hartford's West End. Utilities included. \$140 weekly. Security deposit. Call 860-888-6655.

Room for Rent Furnished room with utilities and kitchen privileges. \$130 weekly. 860 560-8200.

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4111.

Spacious 3 Bedroom apartments on the 2nd floor, West End. Cold Flat. 1 month security and 1 month rent. Available NOW. Section 8 welcome. Call 860-888-6655

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a spacious 1-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$800 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258

2-BR Apt. for Rent

For Rent: 2 bedroom unit, 2nd & 3rd floors. top, new stove, new frig, new beautiful bathroom new wood floors throughout parking for 1 car, quiet street, Mortson Street, on busline and close to shopping. welcome. Available A.S.A.P. \$1000.00. Please call 646-286-6442.

22 Evergreen Avenue, Hartford

This is a large 2-bedroom unit with hardwood floors. This rents for \$975 and includes heat and hot water. Close proximity to shopping centers, restaurants and on bus line. On-site laundry and street parking. Section 8 welcomed. No pets. Contract Christine at 860-985-8258.

For Rent

127-C Hillcrest Avenue, Spacious 3 Bedrooms \$1550 includes heat, hot water, & cooking gas. On-site laundry & offstreet parking. Section 8 Welcome. Call 860-985-8258

Rooms for Rent East Hartford

Nice, clean rooms for rent, 311 Tolland Street, East Hartford. \$160/week, includes all utilities. Call Robert, 860-

Apartamentos Para Alquiler:

Apartamentos modernos localizados en Hartford. Studios, Uno, Dos, Tres y Cuatro cuartos dormitorios desponibles. Estacionamiento didponible. Aceptamos Section 8**. Rates Starting at: Studio- \$615; 1BR- \$700; 2BR- \$800; 3BR- \$900; 4BR-\$1000. Para mas informacion por favor llamar al 860-549-3000.

Church Space for Rent

Existing church building, highly visible and on the bus line. The space provides a sanctuary, pastor's office, administrative office, plenty of classroom/ministry space, multiple bathrooms and off-street parking. This is an excellent space for a growing congregation. For more details call: Bill, 860-608-6998

For Rent, Park Terrace

3 BR apts. 2nd floor, cold flat. Located on Park Terrace. Quiet building. Close to school and within walking distance to shopping plaza. Quiet building. Please call 860-718-5000. Also, 2 & 3 BR apts., 230 Mather Street. Call 860-718-5000.

TKB BINGO

1 Vernon Ave, Rockville, behind Rockville Hospital.

Early Bird Starts at 12:15 pm; Regular Bingo Starts at 1 pm

> Call Debbie at 860-490-1009 or Tray at 860-803-9368.

Apartmentos de 3 cuartos disponibles en Park Terrace localizado Hartford, enfrente de Pope Park. Cerca a escuela en el area shopping plaza. Edificio tranquilo. Utilidades no incuidas. Por favor llamar al 860-718-5000.

Apartments for Rent

Large studio & 1-BR. All include heat and hot water, parking, stove & fridge, washer & dryer in basement. Section 8 welcome. No pets, plenty of closet space. Call Imer at 917-681-5785 or Pablo at 860-983-9444

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Spacious 3 Bedroom apartment, 1st floor, cold flat. Newly remolded. Washer hookup, off street parking. Call 860-839-8801.

With God, Everything Is Possible

If you've tried everything humanly possible and still are not happy, don't give up. Call me. I'll be able to help you understand how God heals all in all. Call 860-561-4884 or email me at maria2giacco@gmail.com.

> Maria, CS Practitioner Spiritual Healer

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF Charles Everett Stokes (19-00186)

The Hon. Foye A. Smith, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated May 12, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Carmen Y. Zayas, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Beatrice Wilson 88 Phelps Street East Hartford, CT 06108

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El Informativo Latino

El Gobernador Lamont Presenta Un Posible Plan De Fase 2 Para El 20 De Junio

El gobernador Ned Lamont cree firmemente que el lanzamiento de la primera fase del plan de reapertura de Connecticut ha sido un éxito. Para mí, el éxito fue que la gente tenía fe en que nos habíamos ocupado de los aspectos de salud pública. Que decimos que está bien ir a un restaurante afuera, entendieron que era seguro. La gente siente que estamos en el camino correcto, y lo aprecio ", asi aseguró dijo el gobernador Lamont ayer durante la acostumbrada conferencia de prensa. Con la fase uno oficialmente en marcha el 20 de mayo, el gobernador Ned Lamont ahora está mirando hacia la fase dos, que tentativamente está programada para el 20 de junio, y la fase tres, que podría seguir cuatro semanas después.

El gobernador Lamont presentó los sectores que posiblemente podrían reabrir en un mes en los que se incluyen:

- Alojamiento (hoteles)
- Gimnasio, fitness y clubes deportivos.
- Todos los servicios personales incluyendo salones de uñas.
- Artes al aire libre, entretenimiento y eventos (hasta 50 personas)
- Salas de cine

- Bolera
- Clubes sociales, piscinas
- Todos los museos, zoológicos, acuarios.
- Restaurantes (interiores, sin bar)

La fase dos también permitirá que se abran ciertos aspectos de la educación y los servicios comunitarios, que incluyen:

- Campamentos juveniles seleccionados (20 de junio)
- Todos los campamentos de verano (22 de junio)
- Bibliotecas públicas (20 de junio)
- Programas de fuerza laboral no residencial (mediados de junio)
- Cursos clínicos / de laboratorio no residenciales (mediados de junio)
- Escuela de verano K-12 (6 de julio)
- Otros programas no residenciales (julio / agosto)
- Programas de posgrado (julio / agosto)
- Programas piloto residenciales de pregrado a pequeña escala (julio / agosto)

Según el gobernador Lamont, hay cinco criterios establecidos que permitirán al estado avanzar a la fase 2. Incluyen:

Transmisión decreciente: 100 camas de aumento neto de hospitalizaciones en la última semana de la fase 1. El gobernador Lamont dijo que esto es "importante en términos de tendencias y en términos de capacidad".

Pruebas y rastreo de contactos: 100,000 pruebas por semana; 50% de seguimiento de contacto completado dentro de las 48 horas. En términos de pruebas, el gobernador Lamont confía en la posición del estado y dijo que sería una medida clave en el futuro. Él dijo: "Eso significa no solo pruebas de asintomáticos y sintomáticos y de los más vulnerables ... sino más ampliamente para la población en general".

El gobernador Lamont dijo que, como en la primera fase, le gustaría trabajar de cerca con las industrias para ayudarlas a desarrollar pautas.

Protección para los vulnerables: plan de pruebas para trabajadores clave y comunidades prioritarias de alto riesgo implementadas

Capacidad de atención médica: 20% de las camas ocupadas por pacientes con COVID-19 entre la capacidad máxima total de camas con COVID-19

La fase tres también se reveló

durante la sesión informativa del miércoles, que ocurriría al menos cuatro semanas después de la fase dos. Permitiría que se abriera lo siguiente:

- Barras
- Espacios y espacios para eventos interiores
- Parques de interior y arcadas de interior
- Eventos al aire libre (hasta 100 personas)

En cuanto a los salones de belleza y peluquerías, todavía se consideran parte de la fase uno, pero esas empresas tendrán que esperar 10 días para volver a abrir. El gobernador Lamont dijo porqué había dado las órdenes para el 1 de junio:

"Haga lo correcto. Puedo hablar sobre la aplicación de la ley. Puedo hablar sobre la policía municipal. Puedo hablar sobre las citas. Haga lo correcto. Es lo correcto para nuestra comunidad. Realmente no aprecié ver a funcionarios electos incitar a la gente a para romper las leyes y las reglas. Creo que debemos mantenernos unidos en esto como dije antes", dijo el gobernador Lamont. "He estado buscando por todo el país. He visto algunas de las cosas de cumplimiento que han tenido que ver con personas que intentan romper las reglas o dicen que estoy por encima de la ley, así no es cómo funciona nuestro estado".



Coronavirus Testing at InterCommunity



Do you want to know if you or a member of your family have coronavirus?

Adults can now be tested at InterCommunity Health Care.

Monday through Friday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm 16 Coventry Street, Hartford

- Walk up testing at 16 Coventry Street
- · No doctor's order or appointment needed
- Testing for adults 18 years of age and over
- Test is a self-administered nasal swab
- · Bring identification and insurance card
- InterCommunity will call you with the results of your test
- Insurance and uninsured accepted

Help us stop the spread of coronavirus. Get tested today.

Please wear a face mask, scarf or bandanna and observe social distancing of 6 feet while waiting to be tested.



16 Coventry Street, Hartford www.intercommunityct.org Nosotros hablamos español.







